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# AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL

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Prepared Statement

of

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Michigan House of Representatives  
Committee on Health Policy

June 13, 2006

## **Introduction**

Good morning Chairman Gaffney and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christie Raniszewski Herrera, and I am the director of the Health and Human Services Task Force of the American Legislative Exchange Council, or "ALEC." ALEC is the nation's largest nonpartisan individual membership organization of state legislators, with over 2,400 legislator members from all 50 states and 97 members in the Congress. ALEC's mission is to advance the Jeffersonian principles of free markets, limited government, federalism, and individual liberty.

## **The Need for a Cancer Drug Donation Program**

It is my pleasure to appear before you in support of the Cancer Drug Donation Program—outlined in House Bill 5672—which establishes within the Department of Community Health a program that redistributes cancer drugs and supplies to needy citizens. ALEC applauds this effort to make innovative cancer treatments available to those who need them the most.

The Cancer Drug Donation Program will allow certain entities to donate unused cancer drugs or supplies used to administer unused cancer drugs. Donations are then inspected to ensure the integrity of a donated drug and are redistributed by a pharmacist to patients who have a written prescription.

At least fourteen states have already enacted drug repository legislation into their states. These include but are not limited to: CA, CN, CO, FL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MN, MO, MS, NE and WI. Six of these states—CO, FL, KS, MN, NE, and WI—have adopted legislation creating a drug repository program specific to cancer drugs and supplies.

According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States. In a recent ACS publication, *Cancer Facts and Figures 2005*, the state of Michigan is reported as having the eighth-largest number of cancer-related deaths—an estimated 50,220 new cancer patients were likely to be diagnosed in 2005 alone. This accounts for nearly 4% of all new cases of cancer in the United States.

Unfortunately, there are millions of uninsured or underinsured people in Michigan who cannot afford cancer treatment themselves. In fact, according to the National Institutes of Health, cancer treatment nationally cost an estimated \$72.1 billion in 2004. And *The New York Times* estimates that consumers discard approximately \$1 billion worth of prescription drugs each year.

The Cancer Drug Donation Program Act addresses this need by creating special eligibility requirements for underserved populations—program participants are given first priority if they are uninsured. By establishing this program, all cancer patients will receive the care they need.

## **Conclusion**

Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this hearing and for this opportunity to submit written testimony. The American Legislative Exchange Council is supportive of the Cancer Drug Donation Program contained in House Bill 5672—and ALEC and I look forward to working with Michigan in the days and months ahead to develop this bold and innovative proposal. I would be pleased to answer any questions you might have at 202-742-8505 or at [christie@alec.org](mailto:christie@alec.org).

From Walgreens.com yesterday 10 readily available drugs:

VEPESID AMP 20MG/ML 5ML	\$147.29	\$424.59
ADRIAMYCIN VIAL 50MG/25ML	\$271.99	\$737.09
NEUPOGEN 300MCG/ML 1ML VIAL	\$246.99	\$740.99
NEUMEGA 5MG VIAL FOR INJ (1 X 7)	\$299.99	\$899.99
NEUPOGEN 480MCG/1.6ML VIAL FOR INJ	\$383.99	\$1,151.89
TREXALL 15MG TABLETS	\$596.09	\$1,788.29
REMICADE 100MG INJ	\$703.99	\$2,111.89
ROFERON-A 9MU/.5ML KIT	\$793.99	\$2,381.99
TAXOTERE - \$3,945.79 for 6ml	\$1,334.99 for 2ml	\$3,945.79 for 6ml
TEMODAR 250MG CAPSULES	\$2,230.09	\$6,332.49